

RELICS OF THE REVOLUTION

A LETTER FROM ARCHIBALD FORBES.
THE BROWNSTEINS AT WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AT NEWBURG—AN EVENTFUL THREE YEARS' HISTORY OF AN ANCIENT PIECE OF ARTILLERY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Even in these latter days a visit to "Washington's Headquarters at Newburg" full of the deepest interest as it is, cannot be regarded by a Briton as a wholly exhilarating expedition. He may in theory have attained a philosophic equanimity in respect to the fortunes of war, but to put it mildly, it does not add to his happiness to read on a British cannon such an inscription as "Taken at the capitulation of Yorktown." But the faint sentiment of humiliation which he experiences is more than compensated for by the interest with which the collection of relics and papers must inspire him. If he is a student of literature he will be struck, perhaps, most of all by the splendid nervous English in which the men of the Revolution were wont to express themselves. There is, perhaps, nothing finer in the language than Washington's letter to General Gage; and he is no true man whose heart will not swell at the reading of poor André's claim that he should be granted the honor of the battle rather than die on the gibbet.

But a stranger in your land (yet who scarcely feels himself a stranger) has no pretensions to occupy valuable newspaper space by comments that must be trite. My object in this letter is to ask permission to make a few observations concerning the history (a history told by the pieces themselves) of some of the cannon that stand around the quaint old house. A lot of these, with brief particulars, is given in the catalogue, prepared by M. E. M. Rutledge and sold on the premises by the curator. The title page of this catalogue sets forth that it is "prepared for the trustees, under Act of May 11, 1872," which entitles one to regard it as official. Being official, it ought to be correct; but there are certain points as to which, with this difference, I would venture to point out that it is not correct. These points may seem trifling, but it seems to me that no memorial of a period so full of ever-enduring interest can be reckoned as unimportant.

On the penultimate page of this catalogue there is a list of "Trophy guns from Waterford Arsenal," contributed "by order of the Secretary of War," to this last occurs the following items: "730, One 6-inch Howitzer—English bronze—captured at Yorktown, Oct. 17, 1781." The piece stands on the lawn on the river front of the headquarter house; and it unquestionably bears the inscription "duri- rendered by the capitulation of Yorktown, 17th of October, 1781." But also bears the inscription "Doway, Berenger, 1770," which proves it to be not English bronze, but French bronze; Berenger having been a noted canon-founder of Doway, in the North of France, during the greater part of the last century. It seems evident, then, that the piece, which undoubtedly was captured by Cornwallis at Yorktown, must in the first instance have been a prize of British arms, since Doway and France were at war throughout the period of what may be called its life, from 1770, the date of its manufacture, till 1781, the date of its presumable superannuation by the capitulation of Yorktown. It is impossible that Britain could have purchased it of the French founder; nor indeed would such a purchase constitute it "English bronze." If the piece had a short life it had also a merry one. It lived in an active-service sense three years, and it passed through many hands. The question is whether the British took it from the French before the Americans took it from the British, or whether they had taken it from the Americans only to surrender it back again to them. So early as 1773 the French Government was actively favoring the Americans by allowing them to draw arms from the State arsenals of France, and no doubt many of the French canons now around the old house at Newburg were the results of this good will. The French countenance became open and active cooperation in 1778, and the howitzer which forms my type may have been furnished by France to the American troops after his appearance before Savannah in September, 1779, and may have left it, or in the alternative, it may never have been taken, and stands at all but Cornwallis surrendered it, and D'Eating may have had it directly from the British.

The question can be narrowed down to a very fine point. D'Eating, if it he who let it, must have done so in the unsuccessful assault which he made upon Newburgh, October 9, 1779, in which he was wounded; immediately after which he raised the standard of that town. Again it was the Americans who lost it; but five opportunities occurred in which that misfortune could have befallen them. The howitzer might have fallen into British hands, or into those of the American assault party which came to Clinton on the 12th of May, 1780, after Vane's cavalry had taken a position untenable by cutting his communications. It may have passed temporarily into British hands as a result of the battle of Camden, August 16, 1780, when Gates's militia broke under the barbed charge of Cornwallis's regulars. The British might have got possession of it during the course of their march from Newburgh into Virginia, or Cornwallis in February, 1771, during a part of which the pursuit was so close that the American rear guard was engaged, and part of the baggage was sacrificed; or again next month at Guilford Court House, when the indefatigable General Greene unsuccessfully tried to intercept the course of the British retreat. It appears that the British did not capture it at Guilford, when Fox's report on hearing that encounter claimed in the house of Commons as a victory, is remembered; another such victory will ruin the British army.

Yet again the English may have gained it on the occasion of Lord Rawdon's victory over Greene, at Hobkirk Hill, April 1, 1781; or soon after in June of the same year, when on Rawdon's approach, Greene was forced hurriedly to raise the standard of Ninety-eighth. It may be taken for granted that the British, although nominally the victors at Estow Springs, won no trophies on that half-bought field.

This much is certain, that the piece within the three years of its life was French property, English power, and American property; and it may have been a French piece, an American piece, an English piece, and again an American piece. I know no parallel of vice-versa so swift. At Kynren, in Cyprus, where I went with Sir Garnet Wolseley in 1877, we took over guns in the same way, which belonged to the Lusitanians, then to the Genoese, then to the Venetians, and then to the Turks; but those changes in ownership had occupied centuries. Your own military history furnishes an example of curiously strange see-saw vicissitudes in the possession of General Hull, who invaded Canada from Detroit in July, 1812, and in the following month fell back on that then fortified post, were two field guns that bore the inscription "Surrendered by Beyoglu at Saratoga." Hull capitulated discreditable to General Brock, and the two pieces, having been captured, returned into British hands. In the following year, the American General Harrison fought with the British Colonel Proctor an overwhelmingly successful engagement at the Moravine town on the Canadian River Thames, among the results of which was the recovery by the Americans of the two field guns in question, which had thus been British, American, British, and then finally American.

One more observation on two other French-made pieces in the grounds of the Newburg Headquarter. Both bear the inscription "Liberte-Egalite"—the French Republicans of the Revolution days do not seem to have used "Fraternite" on their cannon—one is marked "Arsenal de Paris" the other "Perier, Paris." Both bear the date of construction on an 8th which, in our reckoning, was 1792. Now since the War of Independence had come to a close eleven years previously, there is no sense in which these cannon can be styled, as they are in the catalogue, either "Troubles" or "Revolutionary pieces"; except that indeed they are not of French manufacture, and therefore cannot be said to have any special appositeness in commemorating in connection with Washington's Headquarters. In truth, these two pieces have no commemorative appropriateness at all, and have therefore no business where they are.

Apologetic for the length into which I have allowed myself to run, I am faithfully yours,
Newburg, Dec. 4, 1880. ARCHIBALD FORBES.

THE SOUTH AND THE TARIFF.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Those who, in the praiseworthy desire to see the South prosperous, talk about her loss through what they call a prohibitory tax on cotton machinery, allow their zeal to run away with their discretion. Large importations of English machinery are constantly made by Northern mill-owners who do not find the duty to be prohibitory. I am largely interested in two mills, now building, which are to be filled entirely with English machinery, in Vermont, the other in Massachusetts. It is a good sign for the future of the South that her people are opening their eyes to a diversity of industrial pursuits, and we of the North

welcome their competition in the manufacturing field, but we do not wish to hear about the South's being handicapped in the race with us, when she can buy her machinery as cheaply as we can, and has the advantage of nearness to the cotton and corn-fields. It is strange, rather strange, to hear talk about the right of each state to do what it sees fit in the management of its own affairs, and at the same time to assess the need of the General Government and to tax it to meet the need of Government aid to develop the industries of the South.

When the Southern people learn that, in common with us, they have a right to do what they see fit for the support of the Government of the United States, we shall hear less about the injustice of a tariff which is for revenue and also for the protection of American industry North and South, East and West. E. R. M.
New York, Dec. 4, 1880.

THE COURTS.

DECISIONS—DEC. 11.

Southern Court—Chambers.—By Judge Daniels.—
Hamer est. Peper, etc. See memorandum Goodwin agt. Lemers—Order directed, blessing est. Referred: Union College Institution—Act Hamilton; same case same
by Judge Lawrence.—The Rover, National Bank agt. Flattery. See memorandum Goodwin agt. Lemers—Order directed, blessing est. Referred: Union College Institution—Act Hamilton; same case same
by Judge Lawrence.—The Rover, National Bank agt. Flattery. See memorandum Goodwin agt. Lemers—Order directed, blessing est. Referred: Union College Institution—Act Hamilton; same case same
by Judge Lawrence.—Superior Court Reports: Jones agt. Spence, p. 33, note 2, 185, 186; 186, 187; 187, 188; 188, 189; 189, 190; 190, 191; 191, 192; 192, 193; 193, 194; 194, 195; 195, 196; 196, 197; 197, 198; 198, 199; 199, 200; 200, 201; 201, 202; 202, 203; 203, 204; 204, 205; 205, 206; 206, 207; 207, 208; 208, 209; 209, 210; 210, 211; 211, 212; 212, 213; 213, 214; 214, 215; 215, 216; 216, 217; 217, 218; 218, 219; 219, 220; 220, 221; 221, 222; 222, 223; 223, 224; 224, 225; 225, 226; 226, 227; 227, 228; 228, 229; 229, 230; 230, 231; 231, 232; 232, 233; 233, 234; 234, 235; 235, 236; 236, 237; 237, 238; 238, 239; 239, 240; 240, 241; 241, 242; 242, 243; 243, 244; 244, 245; 245, 246; 246, 247; 247, 248; 248, 249; 249, 250; 250, 251; 251, 252; 252, 253; 253, 254; 254, 255; 255, 256; 256, 257; 257, 258; 258, 259; 259, 260; 260, 261; 261, 262; 262, 263; 263, 264; 264, 265; 265, 266; 266, 267; 267, 268; 268, 269; 269, 270; 270, 271; 271, 272; 272, 273; 273, 274; 274, 275; 275, 276; 276, 277; 277, 278; 278, 279; 279, 280; 280, 281; 281, 282; 282, 283; 283, 284; 284, 285; 285, 286; 286, 287; 287, 288; 288, 289; 289, 290; 290, 291; 291, 292; 292, 293; 293, 294; 294, 295; 295, 296; 296, 297; 297, 298; 298, 299; 299, 300; 300, 301; 301, 302; 302, 303; 303, 304; 304, 305; 305, 306; 306, 307; 307, 308; 308, 309; 309, 310; 310, 311; 311, 312; 312, 313; 313, 314; 314, 315; 315, 316; 316, 317; 317, 318; 318, 319; 319, 320; 320, 321; 321, 322; 322, 323; 323, 324; 324, 325; 325, 326; 326, 327; 327, 328; 328, 329; 329, 330; 330, 331; 331, 332; 332, 333; 333, 334; 334, 335; 335, 336; 336, 337; 337, 338; 338, 339; 339, 340; 340, 341; 341, 342; 342, 343; 343, 344; 344, 345; 345, 346; 346, 347; 347, 348; 348, 349; 349, 350; 350, 351; 351, 352; 352, 353; 353, 354; 354, 355; 355, 356; 356, 357; 357, 358; 358, 359; 359, 360; 360, 361; 361, 362; 362, 363; 363, 364; 364, 365; 365, 366; 366, 367; 367, 368; 368, 369; 369, 370; 370, 371; 371, 372; 372, 373; 373, 374; 374, 375; 375, 376; 376, 377; 377, 378; 378, 379; 379, 380; 380, 381; 381, 382; 382, 383; 383, 384; 384, 385; 385, 386; 386, 387; 387, 388; 388, 389; 389, 390; 390, 391; 391, 392; 392, 393; 393, 394; 394, 395; 395, 396; 396, 397; 397, 398; 398, 399; 399, 400; 400, 401; 401, 402; 402, 403; 403, 404; 404, 405; 405, 406; 406, 407; 407, 408; 408, 409; 409, 410; 410, 411; 411, 412; 412, 413; 413, 414; 414, 415; 415, 416; 416, 417; 417, 418; 418, 419; 419, 420; 420, 421; 421, 422; 422, 423; 423, 424; 424, 425; 425, 426; 426, 427; 427, 428; 428, 429; 429, 430; 430, 431; 431, 432; 432, 433; 433, 434; 434, 435; 435, 436; 436, 437; 437, 438; 438, 439; 439, 440; 440, 441; 441, 442; 442, 443; 443, 444; 444, 445; 445, 446; 446, 447; 447, 448; 448, 449; 449, 450; 450, 451; 451, 452; 452, 453; 453, 454; 454, 455; 455, 456; 456, 457; 457, 458; 458, 459; 459, 460; 460, 461; 461, 462; 462, 463; 463, 464; 464, 465; 465, 466; 466, 467; 467, 468; 468, 469; 469, 470; 470, 471; 471, 472; 472, 473; 473, 474; 474, 475; 475, 476; 476, 477; 477, 478; 478, 479; 479, 480; 480, 481; 481, 482; 482, 483; 483, 484; 484, 485; 485, 486; 486, 487; 487, 488; 488, 489; 489, 490; 490, 491; 491, 492; 492, 493; 493, 494; 494, 495; 495, 496; 496, 497; 497, 498; 498, 499; 499, 500; 500, 501; 501, 502; 502, 503; 503, 504; 504, 505; 505, 506; 506, 507; 507, 508; 508, 509; 509, 510; 510, 511; 511, 512; 512, 513; 513, 514; 514, 515; 515, 516; 516, 517; 517, 518; 518, 519; 519, 520; 520, 521; 521, 522; 522, 523; 523, 524; 524, 525; 525, 526; 526, 527; 527, 528; 528, 529; 529, 530; 530, 531; 531, 532; 532, 533; 533, 534; 534, 535; 535, 536; 536, 537; 537, 538; 538, 539; 539, 540; 540, 541; 541, 542; 542, 543; 543, 544; 544, 545; 545, 546; 546, 547; 547, 548; 548, 549; 549, 550; 550, 551; 551, 552; 552, 553; 553, 554; 554, 555; 555, 556; 556, 557; 557, 558; 558, 559; 559, 560; 560, 561; 561, 562; 562, 563; 563, 564; 564, 565; 565, 566; 566, 567; 567, 568; 568, 569; 569, 570; 570, 571; 571, 572; 572, 573; 573, 574; 574, 575; 575, 576; 576, 577; 577, 578; 578, 579; 579, 580; 580, 581; 581, 582; 582, 583; 583, 584; 584, 585; 585, 586; 586, 587; 587, 588; 588, 589; 589, 590; 590, 591; 591, 592; 592, 593; 593, 594; 594, 595; 595, 596; 596, 597; 597, 598; 598, 599; 599, 600; 600, 601; 601, 602; 602, 603; 603, 604; 604, 605; 605, 606; 606, 607; 607, 608; 608, 609; 609, 610; 610, 611; 611, 612; 612, 613; 613, 614; 614, 615; 615, 616; 616, 617; 617, 618; 618, 619; 619, 620; 620, 621; 621, 622; 622, 623; 623, 624; 624, 625; 625, 626; 626, 627; 627, 628; 628, 629; 629, 630; 630, 631; 631, 632; 632, 633; 633, 634; 634, 635; 635, 636; 636, 637; 637, 638; 638, 639; 639, 640; 640, 641; 641, 642; 642, 643; 643, 644; 644, 645; 645, 646; 646, 647; 647, 648; 648, 649; 649, 650; 650, 651; 651, 652; 652, 653; 653, 654; 654, 655; 655, 656; 656, 657